
SENATE BILL 6523

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Senators Pearson, Hasegawa, and Conway

Read first time 01/25/16. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to service credit for pension purposes for
2 certain emergency medical services employees; adding a new section to
3 chapter 41.40 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Local governments formed
6 intergovernmental consortiums, also known as provider groups, to
7 provide emergency medical services over their shared geographic area.
8 Funds collected through an emergency services levy under RCW
9 84.52.069 were used to fund the consortium. Employees funded by the
10 consortium provided services to the citizens of all the consortium
11 members.

12 (2) The attorney general has ruled that where such a consortium
13 is formed pursuant to an interlocal agreement, the consortium members
14 retain their legal responsibilities as employers under the law
15 enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system and public
16 employees' retirement system. That is, the employees providing
17 services to the consortium are entitled to retirement system
18 membership if they otherwise meet membership eligibility requirements
19 (AGO 2007 No. 6).

20 (3) This act is intended to provide those public employees with
21 an opportunity to establish service credit in the public employees'

1 retirement system for emergency medical services they provided to the
2 public on behalf of a consortium or provider group.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 41.40 RCW
4 under the subchapter heading "provisions applicable to plan 1, plan
5 2, and plan 3" to read as follows:

6 (1) An employee providing emergency medical services for a
7 consortium of local governments, where some of those local
8 governments qualified as public employees' retirement system
9 employers at the time the service was rendered, may make an election
10 to establish credit for service performed prior to July 27, 2003, as
11 a full-time emergency medical technician serving the consortium to
12 the public employees' retirement system. This option is only
13 available to employees who:

14 (a) Performed services for a consortium of local governments
15 fully contained within the boundaries of a county whose population on
16 the effective date of this section exceeds seven hundred thousand
17 residents but is less than eight hundred thousand residents; and

18 (b) File a written election to establish service credit under
19 this section with the department of retirement systems no later than
20 June 30, 2026.

21 (2)(a) The department of retirement systems shall treat the
22 consortium member with the largest current population among
23 consortium members who qualified as a public employees' retirement
24 system employer at the time the service was rendered as the employer
25 for purposes of this section. This employer classification:

26 (i) Is solely for the purpose of streamlining reporting service
27 and compensation credit and paying contributions for periods of
28 service covered by this section; and

29 (ii) Does not mean that the consortium member is the employee's
30 employer for any other purpose.

31 (b) All contributions required for past periods of service
32 established under this section shall be by the employees electing to
33 establish service credit under this section.

34 (i) Employee contributions shall be calculated by the department
35 equal to the contributions that would have been paid by the employee
36 had the employee been a member of public employees' retirement
37 system.

38 (ii) Employer contributions shall be calculated by the department
39 equal to the contributions that would have been paid by the employer

1 had the employee been reported in public employees' retirement
2 system.

3 (iii) All contributions must be submitted by the employer under
4 (a) of this subsection within five years of electing to establish
5 service credit under this section.

6 (3) If a member who elected to establish service credit under
7 this section dies or retires for disability prior to payment of
8 contributions under subsection (2)(b) of this section, the member, or
9 in the case of death the surviving spouse or eligible minor children,
10 may:

11 (a) Pay the bill in full;

12 (b) If a continuing monthly benefit is chosen, have the benefit
13 actuarially reduced to reflect the amount of the unpaid obligation
14 under subsection (2)(b) of this section; or

15 (c) Continue to make payment against the obligation under
16 subsection (2)(b) of this section, provided that payment in full is
17 made no later than five years from the member's original election
18 date.

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